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May 17, 2004

Date of Deposit

G. Peter Nichols

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

May 17, 2004

Date of Signature

**Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1711**

Our Case No. 659/1531 (K-C 14996B)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Wang et al.

Application No. 09/753,077

Filing Date: March 12, 2001

For WATER-RESPONSIVE
BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER
COMPOSITIONS AND METHOD
OF MAKING SAME

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) Examiner Jeffrey Mullis
)
) Group Art Unit No. 1711
)
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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 – Mail Stop AF
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2004, please reconsider the application in view of the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

REMARKS

All the pending claims were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being untenable over claims 1-8 of US 6,500,897. The Examiner notes that the terminal disclaimer filed on January 23, 2004 was not accepted because the signature was not that of an attorney or agent of record. Applicants' undersigned attorney of record does not agree with the Examiner's conclusion because a power of attorney was submitted concurrently with the previously submitted terminal disclaimer which gave the undersigned attorney of record the power to execute the terminal disclaimer. In any event, a notice of acceptance of power of attorney was mailed February 3, 2004. Therefore, to expedite the issuance of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney of record now encloses a new terminal disclaimer, which should obviate the current double patenting rejection.

Applicants believe the present claims are allowable and respectfully request allowance of the application. Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any outstanding issues.



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